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To: All Pharmacy Providers and Pharmacy Vendors

RE: Error 1026 “Prescribing License Number Not on File”

When pharmacies experience the following error:

1026 PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN LICENSE NUMBER NOT ON FILE

It has been determined submitted claims usually do not contain the prescriber’s physician license number but rather the prescriber’s NPI number. Error 1026 occurs because prescribers who do not participate with Alabama Medicaid do not have their NPI on file. License numbers for many prescribers are on the license file. In the event the prescriber participates with Alabama Medicaid, the claim should process without issue. However, it is recommended that all pharmacy claims be submitted using the license number to avoid this error.

NCPDP version 5.1 specifications call for the field 466-EZ to contain a “01” (zero one) for NPI number or a “08” (zero eight) for the license number. We recommend that this field always be “08.” The 411-DB field should then always contain the license number.

We are finding that pharmacies are unable to make this change alone. In some cases, omitting the NPI number from the vendor software will produce a different error as the vendor software views the omission as an error. It is generally requiring software vendor assistance to make the change.

All pharmacies are strongly encouraged to contact the software support of their interactive submission software to determine what updates are required to submit NCPDP claims with the prescribing physician’s license.

The NCPDP version 5.1 specification document for Alabama is available for download at this address:

http://www.medicaid.state.al.us/billing/npi_companion_guides.aspx?tab=6

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